

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1 through 12, 15 through 35, 38 through 47, 49, and 50 are pending, with Claims 1, 15, 21, 24, 38, 44, 47, 49 and 50 being independent. Claims 13, 14, 36, 37, and 48 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 15 through 17, 21, 22, 24, 25, 28, 29, 38 through 40, 44, 45, and 47, 49, and 50 have been amended.

Claim 50 was objected to for an informality. This objection is respectfully traversed, and is submitted to have been obviated by the amendment of the claim as kindly suggested in the Official Action.

Claims 1 through 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,160,950 (Shimazaki, et al.). All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 15, 21, 24, 38, 44, 47, 49, and 50 variously recite, inter alia, predetermined extraction timings and predetermined extraction periods at the predetermined extraction timings, wherein predetermined extraction periods at some of the predetermined extraction timings are different from each other.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that Shimazaki, et al. fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed claimed features as recited, inter alia, in Claims 1, 15, 21, 24, 38, 44, 47, 49, and 50. It is further respectfully submitted that there has been no showing of any indication of motivation in the cited documents that would lead one having ordinary skill in the art to arrive at such features.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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